

17 November 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 17 November 1980

The Director chaired the meeting. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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The Director asked about the [redacted] add-on for covert action.

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[redacted] said that the request reportedly was signed off on. Hitz said in response to Mr. Carlucci's question, that the Congressional mark-up of the budget has not been completed, but our submissions must be in today.

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[redacted] said he would call Saunders at OMB to see if there were any problems.

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[redacted] said the appeal letter is ready to be sent to the Hill. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted] said the exercise involving the transfer of the NITC to DoD is over and that he would provide the Director with a critique later this week. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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Hitz said that we may have the semi annual covert action wrap-up before the SSCI on 20 November. He recommended that McMahon and [] attend. Mr. Carlucci and the Director agreed. []

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Mr. Carlucci said that Mark Schneider of the transition team has arrived and will be here full time. Mr. Carlucci stressed that all requests from the transition team for written materials must be cleared through the O/DDCI and O/DCI. SA/DDCI [] will be the focal point. Requests to senior officials for oral briefings can be accepted; however, they should be scheduled far enough in advance so they can be reported to the Director and Mr. Carlucci who will determine if there are any problems involved. The Director said we should be cooperative with the transition team, but we need to protect sources and methods and sensitive programs. The Director said he did not see the need for the transition team to be briefed on any sensitive operations. Hitz reiterated his concern about the possible conflicts of the separation of power (see the Staff Meeting Minutes of 14 November). Mr. Carlucci said that a guideline to follow would be to provide the transition team with the same information we would provide a Congressional committee. []

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The Director said that following his discussions with Laurence Silberman last week, he came away with the impression that the transition team would be looking into the need for a reorganization of the Agency and the need for changes in personnel. Mr. Carlucci said he was not sure that the transition team was looking at personnel changes at this time and said he was assured by Silberman there would be no "hit list." The Director added that he decided not to engage in any dialogue with the transition team about the qualifications of our senior officials. []

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The Director said that papers prepared for the transition team should be concise, hit only important issues and be constructive. He said that when he came on board he was struck with the verbosity and pleading tone of the briefing books and that this left a bad impression with him. Mr. Carlucci extended the deadline for submission of these papers to noon 21 November. []

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The Director will brief the President-Elect on 19 and 20 November and the President-Elect's Foreign Policy Assessment Board on 21 November. The Director commented that the most important thing we can do is to make sure that the briefings are excellent since they will develop opportunities for later briefings. The 19 November briefing will be for one and one-half hours and will be attended by the President-Elect and Vice President-Elect, Edward Meese, Laurence Silberman, Richard Allen, and Bill Casey. The briefing will cover current topics and will be preceded by the Director's presentation on the organization of CIA and the Community. The 20 November briefing will be for one and one-half hours and will cover issues of long-term interest such as the strategic balance, Warsaw Pact, and the Soviet economy. At these briefings the Director will introduce the topic and state conclusions and then the substantive analysts will provide details. The 21 November briefing will be attended by former President Ford, George Schultz, Donald Rumsfeld, and John McCloy and will last for 45 minutes. At this briefing the Director will present the topics in bullet form but will make Agency experts available later for elaboration. []

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The Director said he was interested in the following issues this week:

o Hostages. He asked McMahon, Silver, and Clarke for their impressions of the anticipated Iranian response to the U.S. position regarding release. The Director said he was going to try to see Dr. Brzezinski today to be brought up to date on the situation. [redacted]

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o Jamaica. The Director said he will advise Dr. Brzezinski that we should not allow the situation in Jamaica to become unfavorable because of the transition and one should consider whatever assistance is necessary to the new government. Mr. Carlucci suggested that we get a reading from State regarding their initiatives before we raise the issue with Dr. Brzezinski. [redacted]

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o Poland. The Director said we have to stay on top of the situation. He said he saw problems for NFAC in that every time a small Soviet unit moves we get alarms that this is the build-up for a Soviet invasion. The Director told Clarke we have to be calm but still be able to focus on the big picture. [redacted]

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In response to the Director's query, Lehman said the PDB will be delivered to the President-Elect and Vice President-Elect beginning 18 November. [redacted]

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